

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

Merit Award Program

WHEREAS, national and state statistics indicate that the jobs of today and tomorrow are demanding levels of skills beyond high school; and

WHEREAS, national and state statistics indicate continued education beyond high school – at the bachelor's or associate degree levels, as well as at the level of industry certification – is critical for success in today's economy; and

WHEREAS, Michigan ranks below many other states in the proportion of its citizens who possess postsecondary degrees or industry certification; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has called for Michigan to double the number of citizens possessing such degrees or certification over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, it is a recommendation of the Lt. Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth that a high school diploma should no longer be the minimum attainment goal for students, but that instead all high school graduates should enroll in some form of postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, in December 2005, the State Board of Education approved new high school graduation requirements, which were signed into law by the Governor April 2006; and

WHEREAS, about 41 percent of Michigan high school graduates go on to college after graduation, but barely one-half of them complete a bachelor's degree within six years; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has proposed and the Legislature is considering a new Merit Award Program that reinforces a value that a student's formal education should at minimum extend two years after high school; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education encourage a successful and timely completion of a Merit Award Program benefiting Michigan's students by rewarding them for completion of some degree of postsecondary education, and strengthening Michigan's economy by increasing the number of highly-skilled and educated citizens.



Adopted October 10, 2006

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction